

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

In the office action, the examiner rejected claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over by US Patent 5,858,212 by Darcey.

102(b) rejection:

The applicant has amended claim 13 to add the limitations of now canceled claim 15. US Patent 5,858,212 by Darcey does not teach several elements found in claim 13 as revised, namely: (a) Darcey does not teach a process for removing H₂S from natural gas. (b) Darcey does not teach a method wherein the concentration of H₂S of natural gas exiting the column is measured and used agent is removed and replaced by fresh agent until the concentration of H₂S falls below a predetermined level. In reference to claim 16, Darcey does not teach the following:

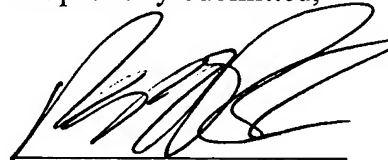
(a) connecting a fresh scavenging agent supply source to the column, (b) connecting a used scavenging agent collecting vessel to the column, (c) placing a H₂S detector in the stream of natural gas leaving the column, and, (d) having the control device do the following when the H₂S detector gives a reading above a predetermined level: cause used scavenging agent to flow from the column to the collecting vessel and cause fresh scavenging agent to flow from the scavenging agent supply source to the column until the H₂S detector gives a reading below a predetermined level. Accordingly, since Darcey does not teach the elements of the above claims as discussed, the applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 13-16 under section 102(b).

103(a) rejection:

The applicant respectfully submits the above noted limitations are not taught by Darcey. Although Darcey discloses column and various measurements of contaminants, Darcey does not teach a control system for removing and replacing depleted scavenging agent as noted above. Accordingly, the examiner has not presented a prima facie case for obviousness with reference to original claim 15 and claim 16 as given above. Since the limitations of claim 15 are not incorporated into claim 13, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 13, 14 and 16 as given above define non-obvious subject matter.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended are now in proper form and define allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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5/22/2009
Date

Reg. No.: 36,751